

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02247 201559Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AID-05 EB-08 ACDA-12 NEAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 /053 W
-----104619 201605Z /43

O 201524Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7699
SECDEF WASHDC/JCS/ISA IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2247

THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SECDEF PASS TO US SURVEY TEAM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, LE
SUBJ: TOW SITUATION - LAF

1. BACKGROUND: PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR, THE LEBANESE ARMY HAD SIX TOW LAUNCHERS AND 77 MISSILES. FOUR LAUNCHERS AND 71 MISSILES WERE LOCATED AT ARMY OUTPOST BURGHUZ (3325N/3537E) IN SOUTH LEBANON WHEN, ON THE EVENING OF 20/21 JANUARY 1976, THE TOW'S WERE TAKEN BY ELEMENTS OF AHMED KHATIB'S LEBANESE ARAB ARMY. THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OR CONDITION OF THESE WEAPONS ARE ALLEGEDLY UNKNOWN TO THE LEBANESE ARMY. THE REMAINING TWO LAUNCHERS AND SIX MISSILES ARE PRESENTLY UNDER LAF CONTROL AT YARZE HQ.

2. THE PRESENT CONCEPT OF THE LAF FOR ITS NEW MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADE ENVISIONS ONE ANTI-TANK COMPANY IN THE HEAD-QUARTERS BATTALION WITH THREE PLATOONS OF FOUR LAUNCHERS EACH, OR 12 LAUNCHERS. THESE TWELVE LAUNCHERS ARE PRESENTLY PROGRAMMED TO BE TOW. ADDITIONALLY, THE CONCEPT ENVISIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02247 201559Z

AN ANTI-TANK PLATOON IN THE SUPPORT COMPANY OF THE TWO MECHANIZED ARTILLARY
BATTALIONS WITH FOUR OR SIX LAUNCHERS,
THE EXACT NUMBER HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. THE SUPPORT COMPANY LAUNCHERS HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY PROGRAMMED TO BE MILAN, BUT CONSIDERATIONS ON PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS MAY CAUSE LAF TO ATTEMPT TO BUY TOW. UNDER THE CONCEPT OF 12

LAUNCHERS (TOW) PER BRIGADE, THE REQUIREMENT FOR THREE BRIGADES WOULD BE 36 LAUNCHERS. THE BASIC LOAD PER LAUNCHER WOULD BE 12 MISSILES, OR 432 MISSILES FOR THREE BRIGADES.

3. THE DEFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE PROPOSED ARMY REQUIRES A CREDIBLE ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY IN LIEU OF ADEQUATE ARMOR SUPPORT. IN THIS LIGHT, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT LAF WILL OPT FOR THE SIX LAUNCHERS FOR EACH MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION. SHOULD THE DECISION BE TO ATTEMPT TO PROCURE ALL TOW INSTEAD OF MILAN, THE TOTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THREE BRIGADES WOULD BE 72 LAUNCHERS AND A BASIC LOAD OF 864 MISSILES. PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT02247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0445
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780437/aaaabevo.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d3701ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2908712
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOW SITUATION - LAF
TAGS: MORG, LE
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d3701ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014